

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING A COMPUTER
SYSTEM AGAINST COMPUTER VIRUSES AND UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS**

ABSTRACT

There is disclosed an apparatus and method for protecting a first computer system against an intrusion such as a computer virus or an unauthorized access. The apparatus comprises a second computer system that is coupled to the first computer system in a manner that permits the second computer system to receive all computer communications that are directed to the first computer system. The second computer system detects an intrusion before the intrusion reaches the first computer system. The second computer system deletes the intrusion by deleting the operating system and all other data on the second computer system. After the compromised operating system and data have been erased, a clean version of the operating system and data is supplied to the second computer system from a restoration controller within the second computer system, or from the first computer system, or from a backup copy of the clean version of the data.